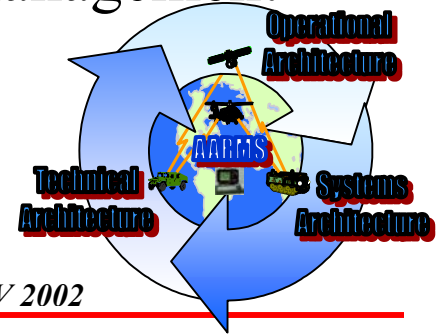


The Army Architecture Repository Management System (AARMS)

UP-DATE BULLETIN

The official TRADOC AIMD-S AARMS News Letter

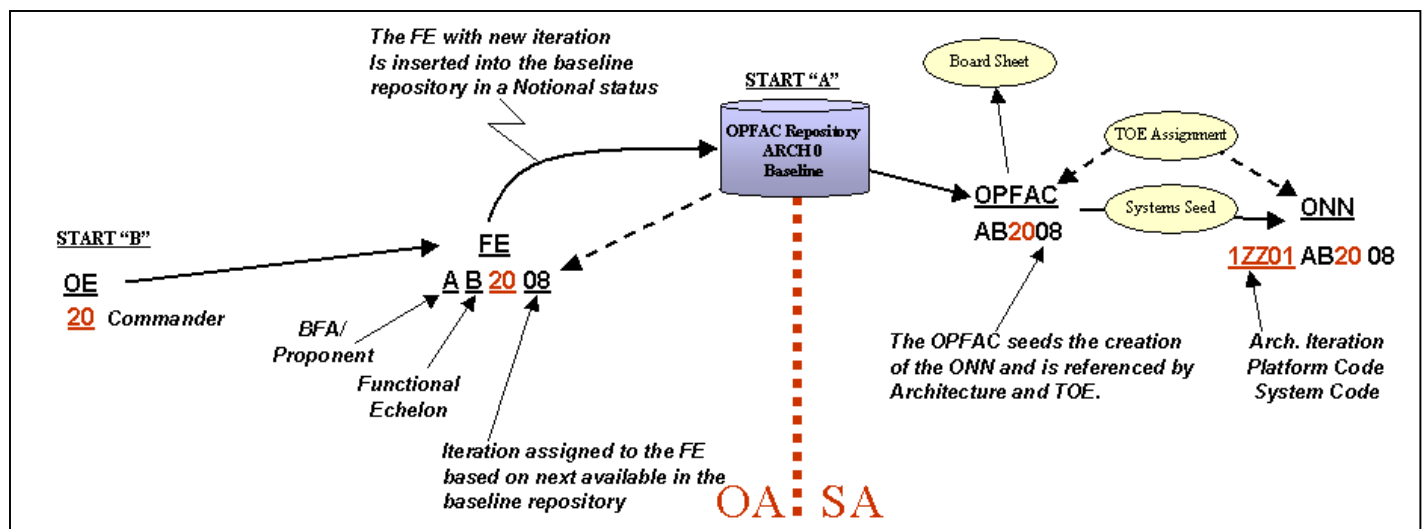
1 NOV 2002



AARMS version 1.2.0.0 Released 28 October, 2002

AARMS version 1.2 was released on 28 October, 2002. Enhancements include a total OPFAC/Architecture versioning re-write. This feature will facilitate greater re-use of existing OPFAC rule equipment assignments and architecture products while creating easier to manage OPFACs with greater traceability from OA through SA to approval boards. This new enhancement eliminates the “OPFAC Linker Tool” described in the AARMS Training Manual (AARMS TM 1.1), Chapter 10, Part VIII.

The new process is a simple one. The analyst has the ability to use an existing OPFAC rule from the Architecture Zero baseline repository (Start Point A) and apply it to an architecture project. Or, a new rule can be built just as before through the Operational Element (OE) & Functional Element (FE) (Start Point B).

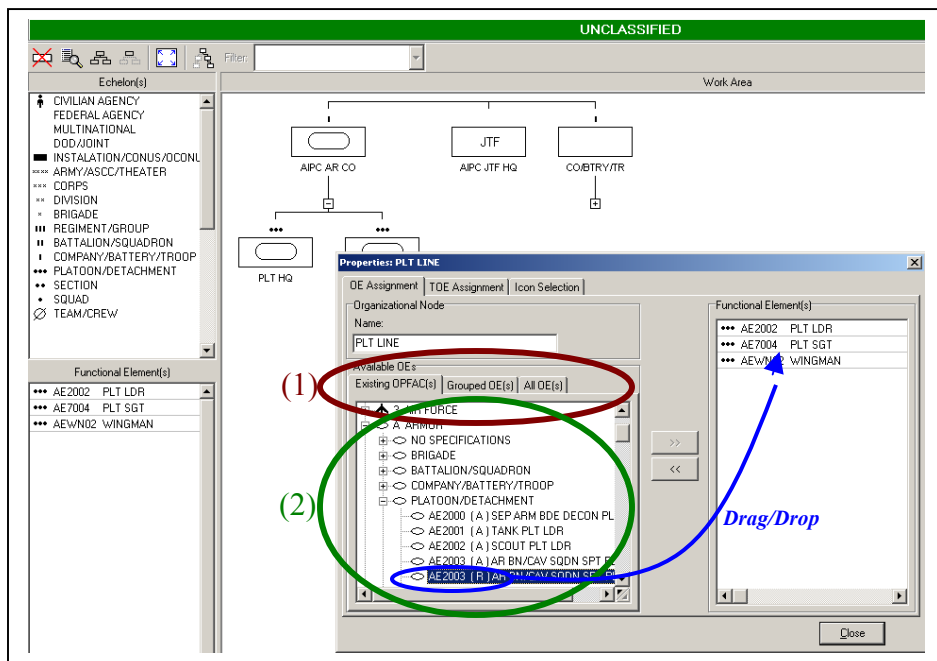


The OPFAC Repository (Architecture 0 Baseline) serves as the container for “template” OPFACs for use and re-use in all architecture development projects. Let’s follow the two developmental paths:

START “A”: The architect selects a real OPFAC to use as a template for his project. By selecting the OPFAC from the repository, he is making an “Initial Physical Architecture” decision by applying the systems associated with that OPFAC to the Operational Network Node (ONN) for future systems architecture work. All systems architecture work is conducted on the ONN. Any equipment changes will prompt for a new OPFAC to be created in the OPFAC Repository based on business rules established by the AIMD. A system architect may also select another existing OPFAC from the repository if a better one fits the requirement. This change will migrate to all architecture products using that FE/OPFAC.

START “B”: The architect also has the ability to create a new OPFAC from scratch if no existing one is chosen as a template. Once the FE is built, it is placed in the repository as a Notional OPFAC. From there, it functions exactly as in START “A”.

As you can see, there is a clear traceability from the basic building block Operational Element (OE) through the Functional Element (FE) to an OPFAC Rule with systems and networks relating to a specific TO&E and architecture.



How the new process works using the AARMS Architecture Tool Set:

After building unit icons in the OV4, the architect must assign Functional Elements (FE) to the units, or nodes, he created. This is no change from previous versions. However, you will now notice THREE tabs (1) for use in building FEs:

1. *<Existing OPFAC(s)>* (START "A") displays all OPFACs in the repository, or Architecture 0, to use for this project (2)
2. *<Grouped OE List>* (START "B") facilitates creation of new FEs and OPFACs by providing a pull down list of all approved OE's by Battlefield Functional Area.
3. *<All OE(s)>* Same as 2 above except all OE's are displayed in alphabetic order.

Other features included in version 1.2 include:

1. The ability to drag FEs from one icon to another in the OV4, thus eliminating the need to delete the FE and create it again.
2. The ability to filter the OV4 viewing area to any proponent "only", by any proponent, in order to make better screen captures or view the diagram more effectively.
3. The analyst now has the ability to edit the Proponent and Echelon Codes for any given FE. Since the FE is tied to a key number in the database, all associated OPFACs, IERs, and ONNs will pick up the new codes.
4. The IER browser was modified to allow all versions of an IER to display when an IER key number is entered on the query.
5. The software code for the OPFAC browser was optimized to allow faster downloading and viewing of the browser.
6. The Systems Architecture Tool now has the ability to create the SV6 directly from the OV3, thus tracing the systems solution directly to the operational requirement. Choice of systems will come from the OPFAC template.

AARMS STATUS REPORT

AARMS version 1.2 is a significant step forward in the development of the AARMS Architecture Tool. The traceability between the Operational requirements and the Systems solution is now clearer and easier to manage. As the integration of the OA and SA tools continues, linkage between the OPFAC and the ONN is critical. OPFACs will be built to architectures and systems and networks assigned to ONNs in SA tools.

Work continues with the effort to fully automate and incorporate activity modeling tools with the AARMS ARCADM database. The sticking point continues to be data integrity in the porting of data into and out of AARMS and any modeling tool that uses text files to import and export data and allows users the ability to add any information to the data dictionary or encyclopedia. A few innovative concepts are under review and testing along with a review of CACAOA functionality.

There will be an AARMS workshop at the upcoming Architecture Conference at Virginia Beach. The tentative schedule has the workshop as an after hours activity on Wednesday, November 13. A briefing on the current status of AARMS, the projected releases and features, and an overview of all enhancements since initial fielding and training will be presented at the beginning of the session.

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